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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,124	04/20/2005	Sylvain Maudhuit	MAUDHUITI	5874
1444	7590	01/24/2006	EXAMINER	
BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C. 624 NINTH STREET, NW SUITE 300 WASHINGTON, DC 20001-5303			IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3765	

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/532,124

Applicant(s)

MAUDHUIT ET AL.

Examiner

Ismael Izaguirre

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/20/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***SPECIFICATION***

#### ***Headings***

Applicant is asked to take note the preferred arrangement and headings directed to a specification: except for the title, each of the lettered items should preferably be preceded by the headings indicated below.

- (a) Cross-Reference to Related Application(s) (if any).
- (b) Background of the Invention.
  - 1. Field of the Invention (or Technical Field).
  - 2. Description of the Related Art (or Background Information or Background Art)
- (c) Summary of the Invention (or Disclosure of Invention).
- (d) Brief Description of the Drawing(s).
- (e) Description of the Preferred Embodiment(s)
- (f) Claim(s).
- (g) Abstract of the Disclosure (or Abstract).

Providing the above would place the specification in accordance with the suggestions of those portions of MPEP §§ 601 or 608.01 concerning "proper headings".

### ***CLAIMS***

#### ***Summary***

Claim 1 is the independent claim under consideration in this Office Action.

Claims 2-10 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Referring to the claim, lines 2 and 3, there is no proper antecedent basis for the words "the reserve of air" and "the sleeve".

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kueser (3,418,736) in view of Morton (2,387,281).

Kueser discloses the invention substantially as claimed. Kueser teaches a pressing iron having a water reservoir 50 provided with a filling opening 24 for receiving water. The water is converted to steam in a steam generation chamber below the reservoir. The water is fed drop by drop onto the heated vaporization chamber by a valve at 32. The reservoir comprises a vent circuit including a pipe 40 with one end connected to the reservoir and the other connected to a buffer chamber 28, which is itself vented to the atmosphere. The vent circuit includes a hollow element 42 with a larger end portion shaped like a bell and extending downwardly into the reservoir.

However, Kueser does not suggest the filling opening including a sleeve extending into the reservoir and located at the rear of the reservoir.

Morton teaches a pressing iron have a water reservoir 15 provided with a filling opening at 19 for receiving water. The water is converted to steam in a steam generation chamber 39 below the reservoir. The water is fed drop by drop onto the heated vaporization chamber by a valve at 41. The filling opening is formed at the rear of the reservoir and includes a sleeve 16, which extends from the filling cap to the interior of the reservoir. The extension of the filling tube enables a reserve of air during filling of the reservoir.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the filling opening of the reservoir of Kueser as including an extending sleeve into the reservoir and a locating this at the rear of the reservoir. Providing such an arrangement would allow the horizontal posture of the iron during filling with water.

Claims 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kueser, as modified above by Morton, and further in view of Valente et al. (5,063,697).

Kueser, as modified above by Morton, discloses the invention substantially as claimed. Kueser teaches a pressing iron having a water reservoir 50 provided with a filling opening 24 for receiving water. The water is converted to steam in a steam generation chamber below the reservoir. The water is fed drop by drop onto the heated vaporization chamber by a valve at 32. However, Kueser, as modified by Morton, does

not suggest a channel opening at the rear lower portion of the reservoir for feeding water to the valve.

Valente et al. teach a pressing iron have a water reservoir 4 provided with a filling opening at 8 for receiving water. The water is converted to steam in a steam generation chamber 2 below the reservoir. The water is fed drop by drop onto the heated vaporization chamber by a valve at 12. The water is fed to the valve using a channel 10, which opens at the rear lower portion of the reservoir.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the reservoir as including a channel from the rear lower part of the reservoir to the valve for feeding water to the valve. Providing such an arrangement would allow the more accurate metering of water to the valve.

#### ***ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER***

Claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### ***PERTINENT CITATIONS***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Watkins illustrates a channel for feeding water to the valve and metering the water to the vaporization chamber. Rakos illustrates a steam iron

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including a rear located filling cap. Vieceli et al., Busch et al., Hoecker and Sastre et al. Illustrate steam irons with venting arrangements.

### ***INQUIRIES***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Izaguirre whose telephone number is (571) 272-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (571) 272-4983. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Ismael Izaguirre  
Primary Examiner  
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